REMARKS

Claims 4 and 6-12 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies and to conform with standard United States Patent practice. New claims 13-19 have been added to cover embodiments deleted by the amendments to the original claims.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**."

In the event any additional fees are required, please charge our Deposit Account No. 111833.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 4, and 6-12 have been amended as follows:

4. **(Amended)** Mechanical part **[**~~(10, 12, 30, 42)~~**]** having a sliding portion, characterized in that the sliding portion is coated with an amorphous hard carbon film **[**~~(12)~~**]** mainly comprising carbon and hydrogen and metal oxide.

6. **(Amended)** Mechanical part according to claim 4 **[**~~or 5~~**]**, wherein said amorphous hard carbon film **[**~~(12)~~**]** has hardness of from Vickers 1800 to 2500.

7. **(Amended)** Mechanical part according to claim 4 **[**~~or 5~~**]**, wherein said amorphous hard carbon film **[**~~(12)~~**]** is from 2 to 15 μm thick.

8. **(Amended)** Mechanical part according to **[**~~any one of~~**]**

[~~claims~~] **claim** 4 [~~through 7~~], wherein the mechanical part is a piston ring [~~(42)~~].

9. **(Amended)** Mechanical part according to [~~any one of~~] [~~claims~~] **claim** 4 [~~through 7~~], wherein said mechanical part is a vane [~~(20)~~] of a compressor.

10. **(Amended)** Mechanical part according to [~~any one of~~] [~~claims~~] **claim** 1 [~~through 4~~], wherein the mechanical part is a plunger [~~(30)~~] of a fuel-injecting pump.

11. **(Amended)** A method for forming an amorphous hard carbon film, characterized in that carbon material, metal-containing material and oxygen are introduced into a vacuum chamber [~~(1, 41)~~] where a substrate [~~(10)~~] is placed, thereby forming an amorphous hard carbon film, in which metal oxide is contained.

12. **(Amended)** A method for forming an amorphous hard carbon film, characterized in that carbon material, metal-containing material and oxygen-containing material are introduced into a

vacuum chamber [~~(1, 41)~~] where a substrate [~~(10)~~] is placed, thereby forming an amorphous hard carbon film, in which metal oxide is contained.

New claims 13-19 have been added.

13. **(New)** Mechanical part according to claim 5, wherein said amorphous hard carbon film has hardness of from Vickers 1800 to 2500.

14. **(New)** Mechanical part according to claim 5, wherein said amorphous hard carbon film is from 2 to 15 μm thick.

15. **(New)** Mechanical part according to claim 5, wherein the mechanical part is a piston ring.

16. **(New)** Mechanical part according to claim 5, wherein said mechanical part is a vane of a compressor.

17. **(New)** Mechanical part according to claim 2, wherein

the mechanical part is a plunger of a fuel-injecting pump.

18. **(New)** Mechanical part according to claim 3, wherein the mechanical part is a plunger of a fuel-injecting pump.

19. **(New)** Mechanical part according to claim 4, wherein the mechanical part is a plunger of a fuel-injecting pump.